

October 11, 2011

June's Article on Phil's Workshop

Last week was spring break for the school children in this area. Marilyn arranged for a cottage and food so the youth who attend her Saturday Bible study could attend a Bible seminar. I had my doubts: would these young people give up a week of freedom from lessons and learning to listen to a man (Phil) teach from the Bible? *Oh ME of little faith!*

The same group of 16 came every day except for 2 days of illness (we actually had to take Johannes to the clinic), and on the last day there were two extra youths. We also had two babies and a little brother in the class. Every morning Marilyn drove to pick up the two young mothers and their babies. Not only did they attend, but they listened attentively and asked excellent questions and took notes.

During their morning break they asked questions that pertained to them personally. One of the guys brought his keyboard—a recent gift—and we began every day with singing—they harmonize beautifully and they love to sing out! A hot lunch was served at 12:30 every day. They clearly enjoyed a break from their usual diet at home. They were given 1 Styrofoam cup every morning; they wrote their names on the cup and used it all day. Cookies (they call them biscuits) were served with juice at the morning breaks.

After lunch was over and cleaned up we introduced them to games: Quirkle, Dominoes, and Spoons. They thoroughly enjoyed these games, which we're leaving with Marilyn so they can continue to use them. We wanted to teach them to have fun, but to use their minds and to learn strategy.

Phil did all of the teaching—I acted as his scribe (at the flip chart) and gofer, and Marilyn and I both fixed lunch and took turns babysitting. The babies were very good, but still needed attention and we wanted the girls to be able to concentrate on the lessons. This was an exhausting week but was so fruitful and personally fulfilling it was certainly worth every minute of it.

These young people really need a place where they could meet on a regular basis to study, play games, sing, or just hang out. There is no place in town to fill this big need.